

3. (Once amended) The method of claim 20, wherein expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by immunoassay.

4. (Once amended) The method of claim 3, wherein expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by immunoassay using antibody made in an experimental laboratory animal in response to the MUC18 antigen consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

5. (Once amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the MUC18 antigen is a middle portion of the MUC18 coding sequence consisting of the amino acid sequence as set forth amino acid residues 211-376 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

7. (Once amended) The method of claim 20, wherein expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by Northern hybridization.

9. (Once amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the probe used in Northern hybridization comprises a nucleotide sequence as given in SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, or SEQ ID NO:10.

10. (Once amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by a reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction.

Please enter a new claim as follows:

20. A method for identifying metastatic potential of a prostate cancer cell expressing the gene encoding MUC18, said method comprising the steps of:

- Mr B
- AY
- a) measuring the levels of expression of a MUC18 coding sequence in both the prostate cancer cell and a normal prostate cell,
- b) comparing the levels of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in the prostate cancer and normal cells, wherein higher level of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in the prostate cancer cell relative to the level of expression in the normal prostate cell is positively correlated with metastatic potential,

whereby metastatic potential of the prostate cancer cell is deemed high when the level of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is higher in said prostate cancer cell than in the normal prostate cell.